



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard
To be Honored By *Alternative Directions***

***Parole and Probation Agent Shelley Colston
To Be Honored As "Agent of the Year"***

TOWSON, MD (June 10, 2008)---Gary D. Maynard, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, will be honored by Baltimore's Alternative Directions for his contribution to public safety during the group's annual Harborside Fundraiser on **Tuesday, June 10**. The event will be held at Douglass-Myers Maritime Park in Canton at 7 p.m. Shelley Colston, Senior Parole and Probation Agent at the Division of Parole and Probation's Guilford Avenue intake center, will also be honored as "Agent of the Year."

Secretary Maynard is a soft-spoken man with a legacy of results that speak volumes about character, integrity, and commitment to public safety. With nearly 40 years in corrections and the military, Mr. Maynard has led four states' correctional systems, while attaining the rank of Brigadier General in the Army National Guard.

In 2007, Secretary Maynard took over a Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services that features a \$1.4 billion dollar budget and 11,500 employees and immediately made a stunning impact that garnered worldwide attention: in a matter of weeks, he moved 842 inmates and closed the antiquated and dangerous Md. House of Correction. The operation was pulled-off in total secrecy, and resulted in accolades from around the world for closing one of the most dangerous workplaces in corrections, where dozens of officers and inmates had lost their lives.

Mr. Maynard is committed to drastically increasing both the number of working inmates, and the number and scope of community enhancement projects utilizing inmate labor. Already, he has accomplished more than a dozen major community-benefitting efforts, and is developing two thoroughbred retirement horse farms and a statewide plan to use inmate-veterans to rehabilitate veterans' cemeteries.

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Mr. Maynard has also led the Iowa and South Carolina correctional systems, and spent the bulk of his career leading both the Army National Guard and the state correctional system in Oklahoma.

In Maryland, Secretary Maynard oversees the largest State government agency, responsible for 24,000 inmates, 70,000 parolees and probationers, and 4,000 jail detainees awaiting trial in Baltimore City.

He is a strong proponent of reducing recidivism by providing programs, treatment, and services to allow inmates the opportunity to return to society with the education and skills to succeed as taxpayers away from a life of crime.

Shelley Colston, who will be honored as "Agent of the Year," is a Senior Agent in the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP). She works in the busy Guilford Avenue office, the main intake center for transitioning ex-offenders who will be supervised in the community by DPP.

For many years, Agent Colston has worked diligently with women coming out of prison, to make sure those eligible and willing can be placed into special transitional programs, many of which Alternative Directions also works with. Agent Colston has helped many ex-offenders who were released from the Baltimore Pre-Release Unit for women find a foothold in their communities after incarceration.

Alternative Directions, established in 1979, has a mission of helping men and women who are transitioning from prison back to society. It has won many awards for its nonprofit work, including the Seal of Excellence from the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

DPSCS employees salute Agent Colston and Secretary Maynard for their accomplishments which led to these honors from Alternative Directions.

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